



News From
Council President Tony Young
City of San Diego ▪ District Four

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Free Life Saving Program for Seniors

Council President Young encourages older residents to take advantage of free smoke alarm program

SAN DIEGO, Calif. -- National safety statistics show that adults age 65 and older are two times more likely to die in a home fire than any other segment of the population, and for those over age 75 that risk nearly quadruples. Yet, thousands of seniors throughout San Diego and Imperial counties live in homes without a working smoke alarm.

With the help of City of San Diego elected officials, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department volunteers and the local nonprofit Burn Institute, hundreds of older adults from Skyline to Scripps Ranch may soon be equipped with the latest smoke detection devices just in time for the upcoming wildfire season.

The Burn Institute's Senior Smoke Alarm Program provides area homeowners 55 and older with a free smoke alarm inspection and installation. Fire service personnel from various fire stations and other volunteer community groups will be spreading throughout the city in the weeks ahead to install free smoke alarms.

"This is a great no-cost program for eligible seniors in southeastern San Diego and throughout the entire city," said City Council President Tony Young, who represents dozens of culturally diverse neighborhoods in District 4. "I encourage family, friends and neighbors to also help elders in our community take all the necessary fire safety precautions -- such as having

working smoke alarms and creating and practicing a home escape plan -- that can mean the difference between life and death,” he said.

According to James Floros, Burn Institute Executive Director and CEO, one way seniors can improve the chances of escaping a home fire is by making sure their home is equipped with a working smoke alarm, and to maintain those alarms by changing the batteries at least once a year.

To qualify for this lifesaving program, you must be 55 years or older, own your own home, and not currently have a working smoke alarm. To sign up for this program, call the Burn Institute at 858-541-2277.

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The Burn Institute is a local nonprofit health agency dedicated to reducing the number of burn injuries and deaths in San Diego and Imperial counties through fire and burn prevention education, burn care research and treatment, and burn survivor support services.

www.burninstitute.org.